

PATENT

REMARKS

This reply is in response to the Final Office Action dated July 26, 2006, and the Advisory Action dated October 12, 2006. Claims 1, 5, 6, 14, 15, 27, 29-32 and 34-38 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Applicant has amended the claims to reduce issues for appeal and/or to place the application in condition for allowance. Entry of the foregoing amendment and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended base claims 1, 27, 29 and 32 to clarify an implied aspect of the invention. Specifically, Applicant has amended those claims to specify a length of time, more than 5 minutes, that the electric charge is applied to the fluid stream. Such length of time was previously implied in the claims through the limitation "continual." Such amendment does not add new matter and does not require further consideration by the Examiner. Therefore, entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested.

Such amendment does not add new matter. A time duration of more than 5 minutes is more than adequately described and enabled in the specification. For example, support is found in the Applicant's specification at least at pages 13 and 14 with reference to a Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU). One of ordinary skill in the art knows that FCCUs are continual processes, i.e. processes that operate continuously more than 5 minutes. Support for such amendment can also be found with reference to the problems to be solved in the background section of the specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added and entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested.

Such amendment also does not require further consideration by the Examiner. First, a time period of more than 5 minutes was previously implied in the claims by the plain and ordinary meaning of the term "continual." Such amendment is only proposed to clarify that implied aspect of the invention. Second, time periods for the application of electric charge in excess of 5 minutes have already been thoroughly searched by the Examiner and discussed at length during prosecution. Therefore, no new issues are raised by the proposed amendment and no new search or consideration is required. Entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested.

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Claims 32 and 35-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carson (U.S. Patent No. 4,505,758) hereafter "Carson;" claims 1, 5-6, 27, 29-31, 34 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carson in view of Harms (U.S. Patent No. 3,933,606) hereafter "Harms;" and claims 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carson in view of Harms, and further in view of Sivavec et al. (U.S. Patent 6,451,210) hereafter "Sivavec."

Applicant respectfully traverses those rejections. For reasons previously stated and now explicitly recited in the claims, the references do not teach, show or suggest a method for the reduction of fouling by applying an electric charge to an object within a flow path of a liquid hydrocarbon stream for more than 5 minutes, as recited in the amended claims. For at least this reason, the claims are patentable over the references. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been addressed to the Examiner's satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,



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Claims 1, 8-12, 18-21, and 30-32 are pending. With is amendment, claim 1 is amended.

Rejection of independent claim 1

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 102(b) over Wagner (US pat. 6,406,921). It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Wagner.

Claim 1 now expressly recites, among other features, a plurality of contacting surfaces, one of which is movable and is capable of impacting another one surface. In contrast, Wagner discloses protein arrays and protein coated substrates for the parallel and in vitro of biomolecular activity. It is respectfully submitted that Wagner nowhere discloses or suggests a movable contacting surface as recited by claim 1.

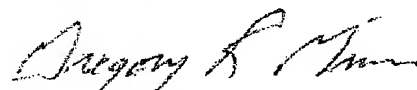
Because Wagner does not teach or suggest all features of claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Wagner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection of independent claims 31 and 32

Independent claims 31 and 32 each comprise all features of claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that claims 31 and 32 should be allowable for at least the same reason for claim 1.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. In the event any fees are required in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,



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